

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
IO-13 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 DODE-00
ACDA-12 /089 W
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P 281838Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3643
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 03291

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: OVIP PEPR KE
SUBJECT: VISIT TO UK OF KENYAN DELEGATION

REF: (A) NAIROBI 1174, (B) STATE 29587, (C) LONDON 214

SUMMARY. OFFICIAL VISIT OF KENYAN DELEGATION TO UK
WILL TAKE PLACE MARCH 6-8. BRITISH EXPECT THAT THE
VISIT IS ESSENTIALLY TO SEEK REASSURANCES THAT KENYA IS
NOT FORGOTTEN IN ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE HORN. END
SUMMARY.

1. PLANS FOR THE VISIT OF A HIGH-LEVEL KENYAN DELEGA-
TION TO BRITAIN HAVE NOW BECOME DEFINITE. OFFICIAL
VISIT OF DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT MOI WILL
TAKE PLACE ON MARCH 6-8. DELEGATION ARRIVED IN UK OVER
THE WEEKEND OF FEB 25-26 ON A PRIVATE VISIT BEFORE
GOING TO WASHINGTON; RETURN FROM WASHINGTON EXPECTED ON
MARCH 5. WHILE PLANS ARE NOT YET FINAL, FOREIGN
SECRETARY OWEN PLANS TO MEET WITH THE DELEGATION ON THE
6TH, AND A MEETING, PERHAPS A LUNCHEON AT 10 DOWNING
STREET, IS PLANNED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. FCO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EAST AFRICA DEPARTMENT PETER
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ROSLING DISCUSSED ALONG GENERAL LINES THE BRITISH AP-
PROACH DURING THE UPCOMING VISIT OF KENYAN DEL WITH EMB

3. AS THE FCO SEES IT, THE KENYANS' MAIN OBJECTIVE IS
TO SEEK ASSURANCES THAT THE UK FULLY UNDERSTANDS THEIR
POSITION, AND WILL TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT IN ANY CONSI-
DERATION OF THE HORN. GIVEN THEIR SENSIBILITIES, THE

BRITISH CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE KENYANS BE GIVEN A FULL OPPORTUNITY TO TALK OUT THEIR VIEWS, AND FEEL THAT THEY ARE MEETING WITH FRIENDS WHO UNDERSTAND THEIR WORRIES.

4. ROSLING FEELS THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT THE KENYANS WILL REPEAT WHAT THEY HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE, THAT THEIR MAIN CONCERN IS OVER SOMALIA, AND THE THREAT TO KENYAN TERRITORY. THEY WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD ALSO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF WESTERN ARMS GETTING THROUGH TO SOMALIA, INCLUDING THE SUPPLY OF ARMS AFTER FIGHTING IN THE OGADEN CEASES. THE BRITISH EXPECT DIFFICULTY WITH WHAT MIGHT BE TERMED A "DIFFERENCE IN TACTICS": THAT THE WEST'S OBJECTIVE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE HORN CONFLICTS WITH A STRONG KENYAN DESIRE TO SEE A CRUSHING AND HUMILIATING SOMALI DEFEAT. THEIR FEAR OF THE SOMALIS IS SUCH THAT THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EVEN ACCEPT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. NONETHELESS, THE BRITISH HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PUT ACROSS THE POINT THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE HORN BE BROUGHT ABOUT.

5. THE BRITISH FEEL THAT TOO MUCH "LECTURING" TO THE KENYANS ON SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN WILL ONLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 03291

"GET THEIR BACKS UP." SIMILARLY, TOO MUCH "LECTURING"
ON THE NEED FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA MAY ALSO
NOT BE PRODUCTIVE.

6. ROSLING SPECULATED THAT THE KENYANS MAY BRING UP
THE SUBJECT OF WESTERN GUARANTEES FOR KENYAN TERRITORIA
INTEGRITY. SHOULD THEY DO SO, THE FCO APPROACH WOULD
BE TO TALK OF ALTERNATE APPROACHES. (HMG WOULD NOT BE
PREPARED TO EXTEND A GUARANTEE OF KENYAN TERRITORY--
PARTICULARLY AFTER THE RECENT DEFENSE REVIEW.) ONE
THOUGHT WOULD BE TO PERSUADE THE KENYANS TO ACCEPT A
SOMALI RENUNCIATION OF KENYAN TERRITORY WITHIN A FORUM
OF PRO-KENYAN COUNTRIES, OR THE DRAWING UP OF A
PUBLIC INSTRUMENT, REGISTERED AT THE UN AND
WITH THE OAU. THE BRITISH PLAN TO PROBE THE KENYANS
SOMEWHAT ON THIS, BUT GENTLY.

7. MILITARY EQUIPMENT: THE BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON
WILL HAVE, BY NOW, PASSED ON AN UPDATED LIST OF MILITARY
EQUIPMENT WHICH THE UK HAS SUPPLIED, OR IS SUPPLYING TO
KENYA. ROSLING THINKS IT LIKELY THAT THE KENYANS WILL
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ASK THAT MILITARY SUPPLY BE SPEEDED UP. THIS CANNOT BE
DONE, BUT IN A DISCUSSION OF MILITARY NEEDS, THE BRITISH
PLAN TO STRESS THE NEED FOR TRAINING AND ASSIMILATION
OF EQUIPMENT. GENERAL ASSURANCES OF SPEEDY CONSIDERA-
TION OF FURTHER ARMS REQUESTS MAY ALSO BE SOUGHT BY THE
KENYANS, WHICH CAN BE DEALT WITH IN GENERAL TERMS.

8. AS KENYAN VISIT TO UK WILL BE AFTER U.S. VISIT, FCO
WOULD APPRECIATE GREATLY ANY READ-OUT WE CAN GIVE THEM
AFTER TALKS IN WASHINGTON HAVE FINISHED.

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